

Applicant : Song, et al.
Serial No. : 10/648,632
Filed : August 25, 2003
Page : 2 of 18

Attorney's Docket No.: MP0239 / 13361-044001

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A programmable gain voltage buffer comprising:
a gain stage; and
a programmable resistance in communication with the gain stage, the programmable resistance including a plurality of switches in parallel with a resistive element; and
an output node coupled between the gain stage and the programmable resistance,
wherein the plurality of switches are operable to change a gain at the output node.
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Currently Amended) The voltage buffer of claim 1 [[2]], wherein the gain at the output node has a first gain value when a switch of the plurality of switches is activated and a second gain value when the switch is deactivated.
4. (Previously Presented) A programmable gain voltage buffer comprising:
a gain stage;

Applicant : Song, et al.
Serial No. : 10/648,632
Filed : August 25, 2003
Page : 3 of 18

Attorney's Docket No.: MP0239 / 13361-044001

a programmable resistance in communication with the gain stage, the programmable resistance including a switch in parallel with a resistive element; and

an output node coupled between the gain stage and the programmable resistance,

wherein the switch is operable to change a gain at the output node, the switch being used as a variable resistance to adjust an effective resistance value at the output node, and the gain is proportional to an equivalent resistance at the output node.

5. (Currently Amended) The voltage buffer of claim 1 ~~[[2]]~~, wherein the plurality of switches are operable to change the gain in response to being activated and deactivated.

6. (Previously Presented) The voltage buffer of claim 1, wherein a switch of the plurality of switches provides a first resistance value in parallel with the resistive element when activated and is effectively removed when deactivated.

7. (Original) The voltage buffer of claim 6, wherein the first resistance value comprises a source-drain resistance of the switch.

8. (Previously Presented) The voltage buffer of claim 6, wherein the first resistance value of the switch corresponds to a programmable gain step for a circuit comprising the programmable resistance.

Applicant : Song, et al.
Serial No. : 10/648,632
Filed : August 25, 2003
Page : 4 of 18

Attorney's Docket No.: MP0239 / 13361-044001

9. (Previously Presented) The voltage buffer of claim 1, wherein the voltage buffer comprises a differential voltage buffer including two branches, each branch including a gain stage, and

a programmable resistance in communication with the gain stage, the programmable resistance including a plurality of switches in parallel with a resistive element.

10. (Previously Presented) The voltage buffer of claim 9, wherein at least one switch from each of the two branches are together operative to be activated and deactivated substantially simultaneously.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Original) The voltage buffer of claim 1, further comprising a second circuit operative to control an accuracy of the gain.

13. (Previously Presented) A programmable gain voltage buffer comprising:
a gain stage;
a programmable resistance in communication with the gain stage, the programmable resistance including a switch in parallel with a resistive element; and
a second circuit operative to control an accuracy of the gain, the second circuit comprising:

Applicant : Song, et al.
Serial No. : 10/648,632
Filed : August 25, 2003
Page : 5 of 18

Attorney's Docket No.: MP0239 / 13361-044001

a reference resistive element;

a tunable resistive element in parallel with the reference resistive element, the tunable resistive element operative to track a resistance of the reference resistive element and having a gate with a bias voltage; and

an output line coupled to the gate of the tunable resistive element and a gate of the switch.

14. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

applying an input signal to a voltage buffer;

activating one or more selected switches in a plurality of switches in parallel with a predominant resistive element in the voltage buffer; and

changing a gain of the buffer by at least a programmable gain step;

wherein said changing the gain is realized at an output node coupled between a gain stage and a programmable resistance of the voltage buffer.

15. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

applying an input signal to a voltage buffer;

activating one or more selected switches in parallel with a predominant resistive element in the voltage buffer; and

Applicant : Song, et al.
Serial No. : 10/648,632
Filed : August 25, 2003
Page : 6 of 18

Attorney's Docket No.: MP0239 / 13361-044001

changing a gain of the buffer by at least a programmable gain step by changing an equivalent resistance at an output point in the voltage buffer using the one or more selected switches as a variable resistance to adjust an effective resistance value at the output point; and providing an output signal from the output point coupled between a gain stage and a programmable resistance of the voltage buffer.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein said applying the input signal comprises receiving a signal from a first circuit.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17, further comprising:
providing an output signal to a second circuit.

19. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein the first circuit comprises a reference voltage circuit.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein the second circuit comprises a load circuit.

21. (Currently Amended) A device comprising:

Applicant : Song, et al
Serial No. : 10/648,632
Filed : August 25, 2003
Page : 7 of 18

Attorney's Docket No.: MP0239 / 13361-044001

a first circuit operative to provide a voltage signal;
a second circuit;
a voltage buffer coupled between the first and second circuits and operative to provide a programmable gain to the voltage signal, the voltage buffer comprising:
a gain stage; and
a programmable resistance in communication with the gain stage, the programmable resistance including a plurality of switches in parallel with a resistive element; and
an output node coupled between the gain stage and the programmable resistance,
wherein the plurality of switches are operable to change a gain at the output node.

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 21 [[22]], wherein the gain at the output node has a first gain value when a switch of the plurality of switches is activated and a second gain value when the switch is deactivated.

24. (Previously Presented) A device comprising:

a first circuit operative to provide a voltage signal;
a second circuit;
a voltage buffer coupled between the first and second circuits and operative to provide a programmable gain to the voltage signal, the voltage buffer comprising:

Applicant : Song, et al.
Serial No. : 10/648,632
Filed : August 25, 2003
Page : 8 of 18

Attorney's Docket No.: MP0239 / 13361-044001

a gain stage;

a programmable resistance in communication with the gain stage, the programmable resistance including a switch in parallel with a resistive element; and

an output node coupled between the gain stage and the programmable resistance,

wherein the switch is operable to change a gain at the output node, the switch being used as a variable resistance to adjust an effective resistance value at the output node, and the gain is proportional to an equivalent resistance at the output node.

25. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 21 ~~[[22]]~~, wherein the plurality of switches are operable to change the gain in response to being activated and deactivated.

26. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 21, wherein the programmable resistance comprises a third circuit, and

wherein the switch provides a first resistance value in parallel with the resistive element when activated and is effectively removed from the third circuit when deactivated.

27. (Original) The device of claim 26, wherein the first resistance value comprises a source-drain resistance of the switch.

28. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 26, wherein the first resistance value of the switch corresponds to a programmable gain step for the third circuit.

Applicant : Song, et al.
Serial No. : 10/648,632
Filed : August 25, 2003
Page : 9 of 18

Attorney's Docket No.: MP0239 / 13361-044001

29. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 21, wherein the voltage buffer comprises a differential voltage buffer including two branches, each branch including a gain stage, and a programmable resistance in communication with the gain stage, the programmable resistance including a plurality of switches in parallel with a resistive element

30. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 29, wherein at least one switch from each of the two branches are together operative to be activated and deactivated substantially simultaneously.

31. (Canceled)

32. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 21, further comprising a third circuit operative to control an accuracy of the gain.

33. (Previously Presented) A device comprising:
a first circuit operative to provide a voltage signal;
a second circuit;
a voltage buffer coupled between the first and second circuits and operative to provide a programmable gain to the voltage signal, the voltage buffer comprising:

Applicant : Song, et al.
Serial No. : 10/648,632
Filed : August 25, 2003
Page : 10 of 18

Attorney's Docket No.: MP0239 / 13361-044001

a gain stage;

a programmable resistance in communication with the gain stage, the programmable resistance including a switch in parallel with a resistive element; and

a third circuit operative to control an accuracy of the gain, the third circuit comprising:

a reference resistive element;

a tunable resistive element in parallel with the reference resistive element, the tunable resistive element operative to track a resistance of the reference resistive element and having a gate with a bias voltage; and

an output line coupled to the gate of the tunable resistive element and a gate of the switch.

34. (Currently Amended) A programmable gain voltage buffer comprising:

a gain stage; and

means for providing a programmable resistance in communication with the gain stage, the programmable resistance including plural switching means in parallel with resistive means; and

an output node coupled between the gain stage and the programmable resistance,

wherein the switching means includes means for changing a gain at the output node.

35. (Cancelled)

Applicant : Song, et al.
Serial No. : 10/648,632
Filed : August 25, 2003
Page : 11 of 18

Attorney's Docket No.: MP0239 / 13361-044001

36. (Currently Amended) The voltage buffer of claim 34 [[35]], wherein the gain at the output node has a first gain value when the switching means is activated and a second gain value when the switching means is deactivated.

37. (Previously Presented) A programmable gain voltage buffer comprising:
a gain stage;
means for providing a programmable resistance in communication with the gain stage,
the programmable resistance including switching means in parallel with resistive means; and
an output node coupled between the gain stage and the programmable resistance,
wherein the switching means includes means for changing a gain at the output node, the
switching means being used as a variable resistance to adjust an effective resistance value at the
output node, and the gain is proportional to an equivalent resistance at the output node.

38. (Currently Amended) The voltage buffer of claim 34 [[35]], wherein the switching means is operable to change the gain in response to being activated and deactivated.

39. (Previously Presented) The voltage buffer of claim 34, wherein the switching means provides a first resistance value in parallel with the resistive means when activated and is effectively removed when deactivated.

Applicant : Song, et al.
Serial No. : 10/648,632
Filed : August 25, 2003
Page : 12 of 18

Attorney's Docket No.: MP0239 / 13361-044001

40. (Original) The voltage buffer of claim 39, wherein the first resistance value comprises a source-drain resistance of a switch.

41. (Previously Presented) The voltage buffer of claim 39, wherein the first resistance value of the switching means corresponds to a programmable gain step for a circuit comprising the programmable resistance.

42. (Previously Presented) The voltage buffer of claim 34, wherein the voltage buffer comprises a differential voltage buffer including two branches, each branch including a gain stage, and means for providing a programmable resistance in communication with the gain stage, the programmable resistance including plural switching means in parallel with resistive means

43. (Previously Presented) The voltage buffer of claim 42, wherein at least a portion of the switching means in the two branches are operative to be activated and deactivated substantially simultaneously.

44. (Canceled)

45. (Original) The voltage buffer of claim 34, further comprising a second circuit including means for controlling an accuracy of the gain.

Applicant : Song, et al.
Serial No. : 10/648,632
Filed : August 25, 2003
Page : 13 of 18

Attorney's Docket No.: MP0239 / 13361-044001

46. (Previously Presented) A programmable gain voltage buffer comprising:

a gain stage;

means for providing a programmable resistance in communication with the gain stage,

the programmable resistance including switching means in parallel with resistive means; and

a second circuit including means for controlling an accuracy of the gain, the second circuit comprising:

means for providing a reference resistance;

means for providing a tunable resistance in parallel with the means for providing the reference resistance, the means for providing the tunable resistance including means for tracking a resistance of the reference resistive means and having a gate with a bias voltage; and

an output line coupled to said gate and a gate of the switching means.